

**From:** Santel Internet Team <info@santel.coop>  
**Subject:** **Protect Your Computer This Holiday Season - Your Santel Internet eNewsletter December 2014**  
**Date:** December 6, 2014 2:00:00 AM MST  
**To:** <tammid@cornerstonenow.com>



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December 2014

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#### Hi Santel Customers!

**There's always a little magic in the air during December, whether it's from glistening snowflakes or simply the sparkle of the holidays.** Our gift to you is an issue filled with ideas for making this season even more magical.

In the Pinterest section, find inspiration for a whimsical **Christmas tree cupcake**, a fragrant **stovetop potpourri**, and a dazzling centerpiece made from old bulbs. In Sites of the Month, check out **holiday presents to make in your kitchen** and too-cute photos of **snowmen (and snowwomen) to create in your yard**. In Two to View, take a minute to enjoy a **heartfelt love song** performed by a husband for his wife.



This December issue also contains more serious Internet-related information. Take a few minutes to read the **warning about CryptoWall 2.0 ransomware**, discover the difference between **phishing and whaling**, and learn how to **delete or edit your Facebook posts**.

The goal of each of our eNewsletters is to keep our subscribers informed regarding their Internet connection and to improve their Internet experience. We think you'll find this information interesting.

To see what's inside this issue, simply scroll down the

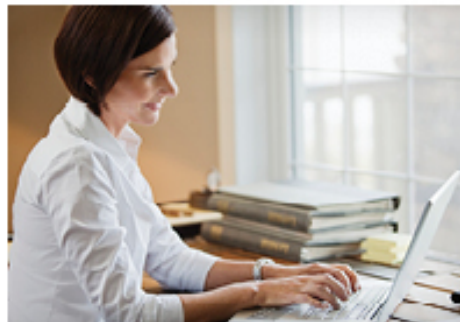
eNewsletter or click on the links within the index to the left.  
Thanks for reading!

- The Santel Internet Team

## Scam Alert - Threatening Ransomware Is Going Around

What is CryptoWall 2.0? It's a form of ransomware, which means malware that infects a computer and then perpetrators demand the victims pay a ransom in exchange for the decryption keys necessary to make the computer useable again. If victims don't pay, and they don't have backups of their files, those files will be lost ...

**[CLICK HERE FOR ALL THE DETAILS.](#)**



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## Protect Yourself And Your Computer This Holiday Season

The Internet is an important channel for businesses to connect to their customers. The sad thing is that fraudulent activity is taking advantage of a trusted relationship between businesses and their customers through fraudulent emails and spoofed websites.

### **Recognizing Fraud**

A growing number of cybercrime organizations are committing fraud through dishonest emails and spoofed websites. They trick you into clicking on their attachments or links by using well known corporate names and logos. For example, Fed Ex and UPS have been misrepresented by fake emails to track an order you supposedly placed online. Their email either has a link for you click on or an attachment that will install malicious software or viruses on your computer.

Another type of attack is "Ransomware" that is discussed in this month's Scam Alert article. Ransomware is malicious software that is installed on your computer that will disable the functionality of your computer. The attack displays a message that will demand payment in order to restore functionality. Don't Pay!

**Tips and Advice from [www.staysafeonline.org](http://www.staysafeonline.org)**

### **Keep A Clean Machine.**

- **Keep security software current:** Having the latest security software, web browser, and operating system are the best defenses against viruses, malware, and other online

threats.

- **Automate software updates:** Many software programs will automatically connect and update to defend against known risks. Turn on automatic updates if that's an available option.
- **Protect all devices that connect to the Internet:** Along with computers, smart phones, gaming systems, and other web-enabled devices also need protection from viruses and malware.
- **Plug & scan:** "USBs" and other external devices can be infected by viruses and malware. Use your security software to scan them.

### **Protect Your Personal Information.**

- **Secure your accounts:** Ask for protection beyond passwords. Many account providers now offer additional ways for you verify who you are before you conduct business on that site.
- **Make passwords long and strong:** Combine capital and lowercase letters with numbers and symbols to create a more secure password.
- **Unique account, unique password:** Separate passwords for every account helps to thwart cybercriminals.
- **Write it down and keep it safe:** Everyone can forget a password. Keep a list that's stored in a safe, secure place away from your computer.
- **Own your online presence:** When available, set the privacy and security settings on websites to your comfort level for information sharing. It's ok to limit who you share information with.

### **Connect With Care.**

- **When in doubt, throw it out:** Links in email, tweets, posts, and online advertising are often the way cybercriminals compromise your computer. If it looks suspicious, even if you know the source, it's best to delete or if appropriate, mark as junk email.
- **Get savvy about Wi-Fi hotspots:** Limit the type of business you conduct and adjust the security settings on your device to limit who can access your machine.
- **Protect your \$\$:** When banking and shopping, check to be sure the sites is security enabled. Look for web addresses with "https://" or "shttp://", the "s" means the site takes extra measures to help secure your information. A site with "http://" is not secure.

### **Be Web Wise.**

- **Stay current. Keep pace with new ways to stay safe online:** Check trusted websites for the latest information, and share with friends, family, and colleagues and

encourage them to be web wise.

- **Think before you act:** Be wary of communications that implores you to act immediately, offers something that sounds too good to be true, or asks for personal information.
- **Back it up:** Protect your valuable work, music, photos, and other digital information by making an electronic copy and storing it safely.

### Be a Good Online Citizen.

- **Safer for me more secure for all:** What you do online has the potential to affect everyone – at home, at work and around the world. Practicing good online habits benefits the global digital community.
- **Post only about others as you have them post about you.**
- **Help the authorities fight cybercrime:** Report stolen finances or identities and other cybercrime to the Internet Crime Complaint Center ([www.ic3.gov](http://www.ic3.gov)) and to your local law enforcement or state attorney general as appropriate.

Practice **STOP. THINK. CONNECT.** Encourage others to do it as well. See more at [online here](#).

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### Go Pinterest-ing! - Cool Stuff To Pin On Your Pinterest Boards

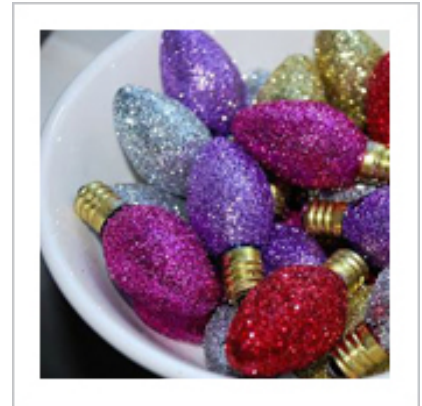
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[Christmas Tree Cupcake Will Light Up Your Table](#)



[Stovetop Potpourri Makes Scents For The Holidays](#)



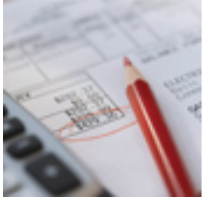
[Turn Burnt Out Lights Into A Dazzling Centerpiece](#)

You haven't started pinning on Pinterest yet and you want to get started? If so, [click here](#).

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### Sites Of The Month - Great Sites To Check Out In December

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### Smart Year-End Tax Moves

[bankrate.com](http://bankrate.com) – Before you ring in the New Year, set aside some time to see if there are tax moves you should make before the end of 2014. This site covers 10 such moves including deferring your income, being generous to charities, and adding to your 401(k).



### Holiday Gifts From Your Kitchen

[sunset.com](http://sunset.com) – Food always makes a welcome gift and when it comes from your kitchen, it's even more meaningful. Take a peek at these 16 delicious recipes, ranging from Salted Chocolate-Pecan Toffee to Peppermint Stick Cocoa in a jar.



### Escape To A Calming Oasis

[calm.com](http://calm.com) – When the hectic holiday pace leaves you feeling frazzled, this site offers soothing images and music. You can use the timer to set the number of minutes you'd like to enjoy the scene or choose a timed "guided calm," which offers a voice-guided relaxation session.



### Creative Ideas For A Snowman

[hallmark.com](http://hallmark.com) – Want to make a snowman packed with personality that will capture the attention of your neighbors? Browse around this site and get ready to impress. You'll find a list of handy tools, inspiring photos, and step-by-step instructions.

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## This Month's FAQ - I've Heard Of Phishing, But What Is Whaling?

**Question:** I've heard of phishing, where scammers masquerade as a trustworthy entity in an email and try to get my usernames, passwords, or other personal data. But what is whaling?

**Answer:** Whaling is a specific form of phishing that's designed to target upper-level managers in private companies. A whaling email is designed to look like a critical business message sent from a legitimate business authority such as the FBI or the Better Business Bureau. The scammers often use the person's correct title, direct line phone number, and the names of other key people in the business – information probably bought from other criminals online.

The message is designed to trick the recipient into clicking on a link that will compromise the recipient's computer, potentially giving the criminal access to confidential company information on their hard drives. Since the target is a "big fish," this scam is called "whaling."





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## Two To View - A Couple Of Amazing Videos You Don't Want To Miss

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### Boosting Bees By "Flower Bombing"

This beautifully crafted short film shows organic food brand Cascadian Farm use a crop duster to spread wild flower seed balls in an agricultural community to help increase its bee population.

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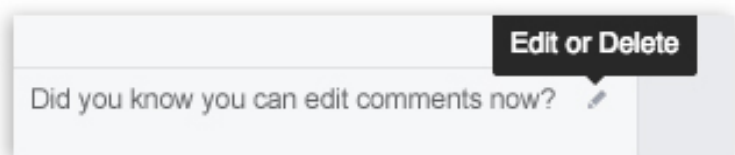
### Marty Brown On *America's Got Talent*

Get your tissues ready for this touching expression of love on the stage of *America's Got Talent*. Marty Brown sings the same Bob Dylan song he regularly sings to his wife at home.

## Short Tutorial - How To Delete Or Edit A Facebook Comment You Posted

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You meant to post "thing" and it ended up "thong." Mistakes happen, including on Facebook. But don't worry if you realize your Facebook post has a typo or an embarrassing auto-correct situation. You can easily delete or edit your Facebook posts using the steps below.



### To delete a comment on Facebook:

1. Hover over the comment and click.
2. Select Delete.
3. Click Delete.

### To edit a comment:

1. Hover over the comment and click.
2. Select Edit.
3. Edit your comment.
4. Press Enter or Return to post your updated comment, or Esc to cancel.

When you edit a comment, you'll see a note under your comment showing the time it was edited. Anyone who can see your comment can see that it was edited and click the link to see

what was changed.

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We hope you found this newsletter to be informative. It's our way of keeping you posted on the happenings here. If, however, you'd prefer not to receive these bulletins, click [here](#).

Thanks for your business!

Best regards

[The Santel Internet Team](#)

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